

## Chaska Cooper

From: Evelyn Iritani [evelyn.iritani@saylorcompany.com]  
Sent: Monday, August 09, 2010 9:49 AM  
To: 'Chaska Cooper'  
Subject: Statement of the RSO on the anniversary of the August 2008 war

File the following with FARA Monday, August 9, 2010

Please consider the statement below from South Ossetian President Eduard Kokoity.

Two years ago, the Government of Georgia launched a vicious military attack on civilian citizens of South Ossetia, killing hundreds, wounding many more and destroying homes, schools, hospitals, and cultural buildings. The European Union has validated that the attack violated international law. Since that brutal strike, South Ossetian citizens have worked hard to rehabilitate our country. With welcome assistance from the Russian Federation, we have been able to institute a vigorous nation-building process without constant fear of attack from our neighbors. Still, there have been Georgian incursions of our borders that have included killings, kidnappings, and other acts of terrorism aimed at our citizens, despite internationally brokered agreements Georgia signed in the wake of its aggression against us.

Unfortunately, many of Tbilisi's allies in the West continue to rearm Georgia as they remain blind to the realities of August 2008 and today. They maintain that our country is occupied by the Russian Federation. They are wrong and officials in Washington and Brussels know that. These obstinate positions are as perplexing as they are dangerous. There are several realities that the West should acknowledge. They include:

- Georgia President Saakashvili is not the democratic leader the West thought he was at the beginning of his rein. Instead, he is an erratic, ego-driven, nationalist, who started a war with South Ossetia in 2008, despite strong warnings from the Governments of the United States and several European countries not to do so.
- The Republic of South Ossetia is not a part of Georgia and never will be. It is an independent country, recognized by four members of the United Nations with other nations around the world considering their recognition of us.
- Georgia continues to isolate, intimidate, and infiltrate South Ossetia, which risks peace in the region, creates unnecessary international tension, and actually puts in jeopardy American and European interests in the Caucasus.

The world should know that we have no grudge against the Georgian people, who have suffered from President Saakashvili's bloody regime. Today, as we remember all of those who died by his hands in August of 2008—citizens of South Ossetia, Russia, and Georgia—we need to think about how to restore our neighborly relations and to build bilateral relations on an equal basis. The faster the Georgian Government comes to accept this goal, the better both for Georgia and for the whole Caucasus region.

The citizens of South Ossetia ask the citizens of the world to stop on this 8<sup>th</sup> of August and remember the tragedies of this date two years ago and to realize how the policies and actions of the current Georgian Government have the potential to foment even broader tragedies, yet again.

**SAYLOR COMPANY**

**PUBLIC RELATIONS COUNSEL**

Steven Ellis

Principal

+1 202.715.1448-Office

+1 202.621.4076-Mobile